

DRAFT

Minutes Scottsdale City Council Subcommittee on Regional Aviation Issues

**Wednesday, September 17, 2003 at 5:00 p.m.
City Hall Kiva Conference Room
3939 Drinkwater Boulevard**

Attendance: Chairperson Cynthia Lukas, Councilman Wayne Ecton, and Councilman Robert Littlefield
Staff: John Little, Transportation General Manager, Scott Gray, Aviation Director, Gary Mascaro, Assistant Aviation Director, Jennifer Lewis, Aviation Planner
Guest: David Watts, FAA and William O'Brien, FAA
Public: Nick Luongo, Tom Guilfooy

Roll Call

All members present

Minutes

The July 9, 2003 meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

Update on Contract Tower Legislation

David Watts, Scottsdale Tower NATCA Representative, thanked the sub-committee for the opportunity to speak against the FAA contract tower program. After a brief introductory comment he introduced William O'Brien, Scottsdale Tower NATCA Legislative Representative. Mr. O'Brien handed out a fact sheet and warned the sub-committee about the downsides of the contract tower program citing increased costs, and decreased safety. He indicated that the FAA would likely authorize a reduction in the number of controllers on duty to one instead of two at any given time. Overall staffing at towers like Scottsdale's could go from 12-14 full-time to 6-7 full-time positions.

He further indicated the FAA does two-year performance and safety evaluations of its towers. Mr. O'Brien handed out a study of the contract of the tower operations in other countries; including Australia and Great Britain. He said the studies show the FAA union towers outperform the contract towers. He said contract tower controllers are expedited through the training process and are certified within 30 days on average. He stated a more reasonable program would require certification after approximately sixty days. He then asserted that the contract program would cost municipalities more money since contract employees would be merely added to existing staffing. Councilman Ecton asked if there really were cost savings. He also mentioned his dissatisfaction with the Scottsdale Tower customer service. Councilman Littlefield said he doubted if the contract tower program would actually change anything. Flight paths and altitudes would not change so what's the point?

Airport Commissioner Phil Vickers mentioned through public testimony that the FAA is not responsible to the city or citizen concerns. He strongly supports privatization, citing safety, cost effectiveness and responsiveness.

Pact 150 Update

Scott Gray, Scottsdale Aviation Director, gave the sub-committee an update on the initial phases of the Pact 150 study. Public participation is slated to begin in late October. The project is scheduled to take 14 months. The city will work hard to accelerate this project. Mr. Gray introduced Jennifer Lewis, Scottsdale Aviation Planner, who will take over responsibility for managing the Part 150 study, as well as other environmental issues.

Naples Update

Mr. Gray indicated the Naples appeal is going forward to the Federal Appeals Court. Cost to date is approximately \$3 million. *Attachment

MAG RASP Update

Mr. Gray indicated there is nothing new to report. Councilman Ecton expressed concern that RASP is not addressing regional airspace needs. Councilman Littlefield clarified that the RASP is responsible for capacity and technology planning. The FAA is responsible for airspace planning and system safety.

ADOT Regional Airspace Planning

Mr. Gray updated the Subcommittee on ADOT's funding request to conduct a regional airspace plan. Federal funds matched by the State would fund the study without local funds. It is estimated that the funding may become available next spring.

Pilot/Community Outreach Program

Mr. Gray indicated efforts in this area are ongoing. Number 8 regarding the ATIS broadcast is complete. Councilwoman Lukas asked if the city staff received any additional feedback from the voluntary curfew letter that was sent. Mr. Gray said that staff continues to receive feedback. Every new operator will get a letter and a reminder three months later. Councilwoman Lukas asked if city staff were continuing to receive pledges back. Mr. Gray said he is hopeful his staff will receive additional responses. Previous responses have yielded 130 responses out of 600 letters sent out. Councilman Littlefield asked when we instituted the voluntary curfew. Mr. Gray responded that we have been doing this for three to four months.

Other Current Issues

Councilwoman Lukas brought up the final plat at DC Ranch Planning Unit 1. She indicated that additional notification would be built into the homebuyer notification. She said sub-committee members have met with DC Ranch representatives and have successfully encouraged them to increase notification to include maps in the sales office and also incorporate official notification that is attached to the title and filed in the City Clerk's Office.

Two citizens offered public testimony on this issue. Nick Luongo a citizen of Ironwood Village stated frustration with the slow pace of efforts to impose flight restrictions. Tom Guilfooy, Airport Advisory Commissioner, remarked that he was speaking as a commissioner and was opposed to any residential development at DC Ranch Planning Unit 1.

Military Overflight

It was suggested we publicly publish information about military over-flights, take-offs and landings. Sub-committee members felt the public should know more about under what circumstances military jets could use municipal airport facilities.

Public Comments

Mary Ann Addis, Scottsdale Airport Air Traffic Controller, indicated that the air traffic controllers are doing their best in regards to noise abatement procedures.

Subcommittee Comments

None.

Meeting Schedule-Upcoming

All meetings at 5:00 PM

Wednesday October 15th, Via Linda Senior Center

Wednesday November 19th, Via Linda Senior Center (Due to conflict moved from Kiva Conference Room)

Wednesday December 17th, Via Linda Senior Center

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:24 PM